

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS
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**Records of the Dakota
Superintendency of Indian Affairs,
1861-1870 and 1877-1878, and
of the Wyoming Superintendency,
1870**



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Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs

Record Group 75

RECORDS OF THE DAKOTA SUPERINTENDENCY OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS, 1861-1870 AND 1877-1878, AND
OF THE WYOMING SUPERINTENDENCY, 1870

On the 13 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the records of the Dakota Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1861-70 and 1877-78, and some records of the Wyoming Superintendency, 1870. Also included are a few records relating to Indian matters in Dakota for 1873 and 1876 when no superintendent was assigned for the Territory.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs was established within the War Department on March 11, 1824. Previously, the administration of Indian affairs had been directly supervised by the Secretary of War except for the factory system operated between 1806 and 1822 by the Office of Indian Trade, which was administered by a superintendent responsible to the Secretary. The Bureau was administered informally within the War Department until 1832, when a Commissioner of Indian Affairs was appointed to head its operations under the direction of the Secretary of War. In 1849 the Bureau was transferred to the new Department of the Interior, where it has remained. During the 19th century the Bureau was usually referred to as the Office of Indian Affairs, and the name "Bureau of Indian Affairs" was not formally adopted until 1947.

The two principal kinds of field jurisdictions of the Office of Indian Affairs in the 19th century were superintendencies and agencies. Superintendents had general responsibility for Indian affairs in such designated geographical areas as territories, States, or more extensive areas. Their duties included supervising relations among the tribes in their jurisdictions and between tribes and non-Indians, supervising the conduct and accounts of agents responsible to them, communicating instructions from the Commissioner to agents, and granting leaves of absence to subordinates. It was also common practice for them to receive contract bids, enter into contracts, and issue annuities to the Indians. Under each superintendent were agents, subagents, or special agents immediately responsible for one or more tribes.

Some agents had always reported directly to the Commissioner, and this practice became more widespread as the superintendency system was gradually discontinued during the 1870's. The last superintendency was abolished in 1878.

An act of March 2, 1861 (12 Stat. 239), which created the Territory of Dakota, authorized the Territorial Governor to assume the duties of Superintendent of Indian Affairs. Since 1851, the Indians in the area that became Dakota Territory had been under the jurisdiction of the Central Superintendency. That superintendency inherited general responsibility for the

Indians in Dakota from its predecessor, the St. Louis Superintendency, also known as the District of St. Louis, which had been established in 1822 to succeed the Missouri Superintendency.

The newly established Dakota Territory extended from Nebraska and the 43d parallel to Canada and from Minnesota and Iowa to the Continental Divide. In 1863 that part of Dakota Territory west of the present States of North and South Dakota was made part of the new Territory of Idaho. When Montana Territory was organized in 1864 most of present-day Wyoming was restored to Dakota Territory, where it remained until Wyoming Territory was established in 1868. Thereafter, Dakota Territory was comprised of present-day North and South Dakota, although the southern boundary had not been finally determined. The Dakota Superintendency at times had under its supervision some agencies located in the State of Nebraska and Wyoming Territory.

The Territorial Governor at Yankton served as ex officio superintendent, as was often the case in the territories, until he was informed on November 1, 1870, that the superintendency had been discontinued. Afterward the agents in Dakota reported directly to the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington. The superintendency was reactivated in 1877 with headquarters again at Yankton but with a full-time superintendent in charge. The final termination, however, came in June 1878.

Most of the Indians in Dakota belonged to various divisions of Sioux. The significant groups were the Brulé, Oglala, Miniconjou, Sans Arc, Two Kettle, Blackfeet, Hunkpapa, Yanktonai, Yankton, Cut Head, Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Santee. There were also at various times Cheyenne, Arapaho, Arikara, Mandan, Ponca, Crow, Blackfeet (Algonquian), Piegan, Grosventre, Blood, and Winnebago in the Territory.

The names and locations* of the agencies operating in Dakota when the superintendency was established and the tribes for which they were responsible were (1) the Blackfeet Agency, Fort Benton, Mont., responsible for the Blackfeet, Piegan, Blood, and Grosventre Indians; (2) the Ponca Agency on the south side of Ponca Creek, between the Missouri and Niobrara Rivers, Nebr., responsible for the Ponca Indians; (3) the Upper Missouri Agency, which lacked a fixed location in 1861, responsible for the Sioux and other Indians in the Missouri River region; and (4) the Yankton Agency on the Missouri River near Greenwood, S. Dak., responsible for the Yankton Sioux.

A large number of Indians in Dakota were not under the control of any agency at the time the superintendency was established. Even after the treaty of April 29, 1868, when

* Location references are to present State boundaries.

agencies were created for these Indians, many Sioux remained outside agency control. Some of the Sioux did not come into the agencies until after the hostilities of 1876-77.

When the Dakota Superintendency was created in 1861 the Blackfeet Agency was claimed by both the Dakota and Central Superintendencies. In 1862 the agency was definitely assigned to the Dakota Superintendency, but it was transferred in 1863 to the new Idaho Superintendency.

An uprising in 1862 by the Sioux of the Mississippi, who were under the jurisdiction of the St. Peters Agency in Minnesota, resulted in the removal of many Indians from that State to Dakota Territory the following year. In May 1863 the Sioux and Winnebago in Minnesota were moved to adjacent reserves on the Missouri River near the mouth of Crow Creek in Dakota Territory. Both groups of Indians were placed under the charge of the Winnebago Agent, who continued to report to the Northern Superintendency rather than to the Dakota Superintendency.

The Winnebago, who did not like their new location, abandoned Crow Creek between the fall of 1863 and the summer of 1864. Then in 1865 the Winnebago Agency was moved to the new Winnebago reservation that had been part of the Omaha reserve in eastern Nebraska.

In March 1865 the Sioux remaining at Crow Creek were placed under the charge of a new agent, who was responsible to the Dakota Superintendency. The Sioux were moved again, in 1866, to a new reserve near the mouth of the Niobrara River in northeastern Nebraska. The new agency came to be known as the Santee Agency and was assigned to the Northern Superintendency.

The jurisdiction of the Upper Missouri Agency was reduced in 1864 when a new agent was assigned to the Mandan, Arikara, Assiniboin, Grosventre, and Crow Indians living farther up the Missouri River. The new agency came to be known as the Fort Berthold Agency. The Upper Missouri Agent, meanwhile, continued to have charge of those Sioux of the Upper Missouri who were not assigned to other agencies.

In 1866 the Upper Missouri Agency was permanently located near Crow Creek in the area that had been abandoned by the Sioux of the Mississippi, or Santee, Indians. After 1866 the Upper Missouri Agency was commonly referred to as the Crow Creek Agency. The agency by this time was responsible primarily for the Lower Yanktonai at Crow Creek and the Lower Brulé living a few miles farther down the Missouri River. A group of Two Kettle Sioux were living at the agency until 1868.

Following several years of increased military engagements and treaty negotiations with the Sioux of the Upper Missouri and Upper Platte, three new agencies were established in 1869 under the Dakota Superintendency for those Indians. Created in that year were the Grand River Agency for the Yanktonai, Cut Head, Hunkpapa, and Blackfeet Sioux; the Cheyenne River Agency for the Sans Arc, Two Kettle, Miniconjou, and additional Blackfeet Sioux; and the Whetstone Agency for Chief Spotted Tail's Brulé Sioux. The Whetstone Agency's predecessor, the Upper Platte Agency, had been moved in December 1868 from the Platte River area to the mouth of Whetstone Creek on the Missouri River and transferred in June 1869 from the Northern to the Dakota Superintendency.

In April 1877 a new superintendent was appointed to administer the revived Dakota Superintendency. The superintendency took charge of the Standing Rock (formerly Grand River), Cheyenne River, Crow Creek, Lower Brulé, Yankton, Red Cloud, and Spotted Tail (formerly Whetstone) Agencies; the Fort Berthold Agency was not placed under its supervision. Three agencies in Dakota Territory never came under the jurisdiction of the Dakota Superintendency: the Sisseton Agency (established 1867), the Devil's Lake Agency (established 1871), and the Flandreau Agency (established 1873).

The Wyoming Superintendency functioned for only a brief period. Authority to serve as Superintendent of Indian Affairs was vested in the Territorial Governor of Wyoming by an act of July 25, 1868 (15 Stat. 178). Not until April 1869, however, were territorial officials appointed. The Territorial Governor at Cheyenne served as ex officio superintendent until the Wyoming Superintendency was discontinued in November 1870.

Wyoming Territory was organized from parts of the Territories of Dakota, Idaho, and Utah. The only agency in this area during the period of the Wyoming Superintendency was the Shoshone and Bannock Agency. This agency, a continuation of the Fort Bridger Agency of the Utah Superintendency, was responsible for the Eastern Band of Shoshoni and the Northern Bannock. The Indians agreed in the treaty of July 3, 1868, to settle on land set aside in the Wind River area of northwestern Wyoming, and the agency was moved to the reservation in 1870. There were Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho in Wyoming who were not under the control of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

More detailed information on the administrative changes of the Dakota and Wyoming Superintendencies is available in the National Archives and Records Service (NARS) Microfilm Publication T1105, *Historical Sketches for Jurisdictional and Subject Headings Used for the Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1880*.

The records of the Dakota Superintendency relate to almost all aspects of Indian administration within its jurisdiction, including negotiations and enforcement of treaties, Indian delegations, annuity and other payments, intrusions on Indian lands, hostilities and depredations, enforcement of Federal laws and regulations, traders and licenses, contracts, claims, location of agencies, construction and repair of buildings, purchase and transportation of goods and supplies, furnishing food and other subsistence to Indians, Indian education and farming, medical supplies and health, and agency accounts and employees. There is also documentation of general conditions among the Indian tribes, locations of Indian bands, hunting, and intertribal relations.

Most of the correspondence of the superintendency was conducted with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and with the agents in the superintendency. With few exceptions, the incoming correspondence in 1877 and 1878 originated with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. There are no separate files of letters received from other sources for those 2 years. Included with the correspondence from the Commissioner are letters from the Chief Clerk of the Office of Indian Affairs functioning as Acting Commissioner, letters from the Secretary of the Interior, and circulars. With their correspondence, agents submitted annual, monthly, and special reports; reports of employees; statistical reports; Indian speeches and communications; lists of medical supplies, annuities, supplies, and property; contracts; affidavits; and estimates of funds. There are, in addition, some letters and reports from physicians and other agency employees. The superintendent also corresponded with special Indian agents, other superintendents, military post commanders, the Second Auditor and other Treasury Department officers, various Federal and State officials, contractors, traders, businessmen, missionaries, and various private individuals.

The records of the Dakota Superintendency reproduced in this microfilm publication consist of six groups of records:

1. Letters Received, Statements of Letters Received, Accounts, and Related Records, 1861-78.

The basic arrangement is by year, thereunder by kind of record or source, and thereunder chronologically by date of document. Generally, the various kinds of extant records are grouped in the same order for each year. The bulk of the records consist of letters received. Endorsements on letters received vary in completeness. Information given sometimes includes the date, the name of the writer or the designation of the office, a brief summary of the contents, and the date of receipt. Occasionally, remarks appear that indicate such further action was taken as acknowledgment, forwarding, or followup correspondence. Many of the letters received are numbered sequentially. In 1864 the numbers are keyed to numbered entries on statements of letters received.

The most common kinds of records and their order of arrangement within a given year are listed below:

Letters Received From the Commissioner of Indian Affairs--arranged chronologically by date of document.

Letters Received From Agents--arranged alphabetically by name of agency within each year and thereunder chronologically by date of document. For registers of letters received from agents in 1869-70, see the description under No. 5, p. 7.

Miscellaneous Letters Received--arranged chronologically by date of document. A few special subject files are placed with the letters received in 1862 and 1865.

Statements of Letters Received--arranged by month within each year. These records are extant only for 1864-69. They normally show the date of the letter, the name of the writer, a brief summary of the contents, and the date received; sometimes they also include the date of reply and other remarks.

Tabular Statements of Funds Remitted--arranged chronologically by date of statement. Included for funds remitted to the superintendent are accounting heads, names of tribes or the agency concerned, purpose of expenditures, amounts for each purpose, and total remitted. Separate files of tabular statements exist for 1867, 1869, and 1870. Generally these statements are accompanied by letters of instruction from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. There are statements for other years filed with the miscellaneous accounting records.

Accounting Records--these consist of accounts current; vouchers; tabular statements; receipts of goods and moneys; lists of articles disbursed, issued, and on hand; estimates of funds; contracts; reports of employees; and various other records. The arrangement varies, but it is generally chronological by date of document. A few records are arranged either by fiscal quarter or by name of the agency and thereunder chronologically by date of documents. Some vouchers are arranged sequentially by control numbers assigned to each document. There are also accounting records dispersed among the letters received, often as enclosures of covering letters.

2. Records Relating to Indian Matters in Dakota, 1873 and 1876--arranged chronologically by date of document. The records are fragmentary and few in number.

3. Unbound Copies of Letters Sent, 1861-66--arranged in three categories by addressee and thereunder chronologically by date of document. The categories are for the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, agents, and other persons.

4. Letters Sent, November 17, 1865-April 30, 1869 (1 vol.)--arranged chronologically. A majority of these copies of handwritten letters are addressed to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and to Indian agents, but there are also letters to the Second Auditor, military post commanders, various Government officials, and private individuals.

5. Letters Sent to Agents, 1869-70 (5 vols.)--arranged alphabetically by name of the agency and thereunder chronologically. There are separate volumes of handwritten copies of letters sent to the following agencies: Fort Berthold (June 22, 1869-Nov. 16, 1870), Grand River (July 7, 1869-Oct. 19, 1870), Ponca (June 3, 1869-Oct. 5, 1870), Whetstone (July 12, 1869-Nov. 14, 1870), and Yankton (May 1, 1869-Nov. 2, 1870). Preceding the letters in each volume is a register of the contents. At the end of each volume there is also a register to the letters received by the superintendent from each agent for 1869-70. The latter registers are keyed to file numbers entered on the endorsements of the letters received from agents.

6. Letters Sent, 1877-78 (2 vols.)--press copies. The first volume consists almost entirely of letters sent to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The second volume contains letters sent to other persons: Indian agents, military officers, other Government officials, contractors, and private individuals. In each volume the letters are arranged in rough chronological order. There is an alphabetical index to names of addressees in both volumes.

The records of the Wyoming Superintendency are incomplete and do not cover as broad a range of administrative activities. Routine matters, such as annuities, subsistence and supplies, and the operation of the superintendency, are documented; there is some mention of Indians not under immediate superintendency control.

Records of the Wyoming Superintendency reproduced in this microfilm publication consist of two groups of records:

1. Letters Sent, July 30-November 10, 1870 (1 vol.)--press copies arranged chronologically. The letters are addressed to various persons.

2. Endorsements, August 21-November 2, 1870 (1 vol.)--arranged chronologically by date of endorsement. These are handwritten copies of endorsements on letters received by the superintendent and referred to other officials, mainly to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication are part of the records in the National Archives of the United States designated as Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75. Related records in the same record group include registers of letters received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-80 (reproduced as M18); letters received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-80 (M234); letters sent by the Office

of Indian Affairs, 1824-81 (M21); report books of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1838-85 (M348); special files of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1807-1904 (M574); and documents relating to the negotiation of ratified and unratified treaties with various Indian tribes, 1801-69 (T494).

Related records in Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Record Group 48, include letters sent by the Indian Division of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, 1849-1903 (M606); and selected classes of letters received by the Indian Division of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, 1849-80 (M825).

Records have also been microfilmed for other superintendencies: Michigan, 1814-51 (M1); New Mexico, 1849-80 (T21); Oregon, 1848-73 (M2); Washington, 1853-74 (M5); Southern, 1832-70 (M640); Arizona, 1863-73 (M734); Idaho, 1863-70 (M832); Montana, 1867-73 (M833); Utah, 1853-70 (M834); Nevada, 1869-70 (M837); Minnesota, 1849-56 (M842); Central, 1813-78 (M856); and Wisconsin, 1836-48 (M951).

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication were prepared by Richard C. Crawford, who also wrote the introductory remarks.

Commissioners of Indian Affairs

1861-70 and 1875-78

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
William P. Dole	Mar. 13, 1861
Dennis N. Cooley	July 10, 1865
Lewis V. Bogy	Nov. 1, 1866
Nathaniel G. Taylor	Mar. 29, 1867
Ely S. Parker	Apr. 21, 1869
John Q. Smith	Dec. 11, 1875
Ezra A. Hayt	Sept. 27, 1877

SUPERINTENDENTS AND AGENTS
OF THE DAKOTA SUPERINTENDENCY

Governors and Ex Officio Superintendents

1861-70

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
William Jayne	Mar. 27, 1861
Newton Edmunds	Oct. 6, 1863
Andrew J. Faulk	Aug. 4, 1866
John A. Burbank	Apr. 5, 1869

Superintendents

1877-78

John H. Hammond	Apr. 5, 1877
William J. Pollock	Feb. 21, 1878

Agents

Blackfeet Agency

1857-63

Alirea J. Vaughan	May 9, 1857
Luther Pease	Apr. 22, 1861
Henry W. Reed	Apr. 4, 1862
Gad E. Upson	Oct. 13, 1863

Cheyenne River Agency

1869-70 and 1876-78

Bvt. Maj. George M. Randall (special)	June 14, 1869
J. Lee Englebert (special)	Oct. 19, 1870
James F. Cravens	June 27, 1876
Capt. Theodore Schwan (acting)	Mar. 28, 1878

Crow Creek Agency

1870-78

Henry F. Livingston	Oct. 18, 1870
Capt. William E. Dougherty (acting)	Mar. 21, 1878

Name Date of Appointment

Crow Creek (St. Peters) Agency

1865-66

James M. Stone Mar. 21, 1865

Fort Berthold Agency

1864-70

Mahlon Wilkinson Mar. 2, 1864
Capt. Walter Clifford June 25, 1869

Grand River Agency

1869-70

(see also Standing Rock Agency)

Bvt. Maj. J. A. Hearn (special) June 14, 1869
William F. Cady (special) Sept. 30, 1870

Lower Brulé Agency

1876-78

Henry E. Gregory July 18, 1876
Capt. William E. Dougherty Mar. 21, 1878
(acting)

Ponca Agency

1860-70

J. Shaw Gregory June 26, 1860
John B. Hoffman Apr. 15, 1861
Joel A. Potter Mar. 6, 1865
Maj. W. H. Hugo June 25, 1869
Henry C. Gregory Oct. 18, 1870

Red Cloud Agency

1877-78

James Irwin Feb. 16, 1877

Name

Date of Appointment

Spotted Tail Agency

1877-78

(see also Whetstone Agency)

Lt. J. M. Lee (acting)	Stationed at the Spotted Tail Agency on Beaver Creek, Jan. 11, 1877; assumed charge of the new agency on the Missouri River, Dec. 31, 1877.
James Lawrence	Stationed at the new agency site on the Missouri River, Mar. 29, 1877.

Standing Rock Agency

1876-78

(see also Grand River Agency)

William T. Hughes	Oct. 20, 1876
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Upper Missouri Agency

1859-70

(commonly known as Crow Creek Agency after 1866)

Bernard S. Schoonover	Mar. 29, 1859
Samuel N. Latta	Aug. 3, 1861
Joseph R. Hanson	Mar. 21, 1866
Capt. W. H. French	June 25, 1869
Henry F. Livingston	Oct. 18, 1870

Whetstone Agency

1869-70

(see also Spotted Tail Agency)

Capt. DeWitt C. Poole	June 14, 1869
John M. Washburn	Oct. 18, 1870

Name

Date of Appointment

Yankton Agency

1859-70 and 1877-78

Alexander H. Redfield	Mar. 9, 1859
Walter A. Burleigh	Mar. 28, 1861
Patrick Henry Conger	Mar. 23, 1865
Capt. William J. Broatch	June 25, 1869
Maj. J. M. Goodhue	Apr. 23, 1870
Samuel D. Webster	Oct. 18, 1870
John W. Douglas	Mar. 28, 1876

SUPERINTENDENT AND AGENTS OF
THE WYOMING SUPERINTENDENCY

Governor and Ex Officio Superintendent

1869-70

John A. Campbell	Apr. 7, 1869
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Shoshone and Bannock Agency

1861-70

Lt. G. W. Fleming (special)	Nov. 9, 1869
J. W. Wham (special)	July 20, 1870

CONTENTS

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
	Dakota Superintendency	
1	Letters Received and Accounts	1861-63
2	Letters Received and Accounts	1864-65
3	Letters Received and Accounts	1866
4	Letters Received and Accounts	1867
5	Letters Received	1868
6	Letters Received From the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and From the Cheyenne River, Crow Creek (Upper Missouri), Fort Berthold, and Grand River Agents	1869
7	Letters Received From the Ponca, Whetstone, and Yankton Agents; Miscellaneous Letters Received; Monthly Statements of Letters Received; Tabular Statements of Funds Remitted to the Superintendent	1869
8	Letters Received From the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and From the Cheyenne River, Crow Creek (Upper Missouri), Fort Berthold, and Grand River Agents	1870
9	Letters Received From the Ponca, Whetstone, and Yankton Agents; Miscellaneous Letters Received; Tabular Statements of Funds Remitted to the Superintendent	1870
10	Miscellaneous Records Relating to Indian Matters in Dakota; Letters Received From the Commissioner of Indian Affairs; Accounts	1873 and 1876 1877-78 1877-78
11	Unbound Copies of Letters Sent	1861-66

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
12	Letters Sent	1865-70
13	Letters Sent	1877-78
	Wyoming Superintendency Letters Sent and Endorsements	1870

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